

PHARMACY BOARD[657]

Adopted and Filed

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code section 272C.2, the Board of Pharmacy hereby amends Chapter 2, "Pharmacist Licenses," Iowa Administrative Code.

The amendments define continuing education for the practice of pharmacy, correct the name of the pharmacy education accreditation council, identify additional programs that qualify for the drug therapy course requirement in subrule 2.12(4), clarify the information required on the program attendance certificate and on reports to the Board, clarify the process for exemption from continuing education requirements in subrule 2.12(1), and identify types of non-ACPE provider programs that will be accepted for no more than 50 percent of the total continuing education credits required during a renewal period.

Requests for waiver or variance of the discretionary provisions of these rules will be considered pursuant to 657—Chapter 34.

Notice of Intended Action was published in the December 30, 2009, Iowa Administrative Bulletin as **ARC 8412B**. The Board received written comments regarding the proposed amendments from one individual. Those comments related primarily to terminology that is currently universally used in relation to professional continuing education.

In response to those comments, the adopted amendments have been revised to change "program" to "activity" (including other root derivations of the term), to change "attendance certificate" to "statement of credit," and to change "approved" to "accredited" as those terms or phrases are used throughout the amendments.

In Item 3, in subrule 2.12(3), paragraph "a" is amended by deleting subparagraphs (2) and (6) and appropriately renumbering the remaining subparagraphs. In addition, the term "program identification number" is amended to read "universal activity number." Finally, in subrule 2.12(3), paragraph "b" is amended by changing the term "certificates" to "statements of credit."

In Item 5, in subrule 2.12(7), paragraphs "b" and "c" were identified as "no change" as proposed under Notice. However, while paragraph "c" has not been changed, the Board has amended the language in paragraph "b" to read as follows:

"b. The board may require a pharmacist to submit the activity statements of credit that document successful completion of the activities included with or on the renewal application."

The amendments were approved during the March 9, 2010, meeting of the Board of Pharmacy.

These amendments will become effective on May 12, 2010.

These amendments are intended to implement Iowa Code section 272C.2.

The following amendments are adopted.

ITEM 1. Amend rule 657—2.12(272C), introductory paragraph, as follows:

657—2.12(272C) Continuing education requirements. Pharmacists shall complete continuing education for license renewal pursuant to the requirements of this rule. For purposes of this rule, "continuing education" means a structured educational activity that is applicable to the practice of pharmacy, that promotes problem solving and critical thinking, and that is designed or intended to support the continuing development of pharmacists to maintain and enhance their competence.

ITEM 2. Amend subrule 2.12(1) as follows:

2.12(1) Continuing education ~~program~~ activity attendance. Continuing education ~~programs~~ activities that carry the seal of an American Council on Pharmaceutical Education Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE)-~~approved~~ accredited provider will automatically qualify for continuing education credit. ~~Program attendance~~ Attendance is mandated in order for a pharmacist to receive credit unless the ~~program~~ activity is a an ACPE-accredited correspondence course that ACPE approved.

a. Non-ACPE provider ~~program~~ activity. A pharmacist requesting individual credit for completing a non-ACPE provider program shall submit a request for approval of the program to the board office no later than the date the program commences. The request shall be made on forms provided by the board office. A maximum of 50 percent of the total continuing education credits required pursuant to subrule 2.12(4) may be obtained through completion of non-ACPE provider activities if such activities are provided by an accredited health-professional continuing education provider, such as a continuing medical education (CME) provider, and if the activity content directly relates to the pharmacist's professional practice.

b. Exemption for health-related graduate studies. A pharmacist who is continuing formal education in health-related graduate programs may be exempted from meeting the continuing education requirements during the period of such enrollment. An applicant for this exemption shall petition the board, as soon as possible following enrollment in the qualifying graduate program, on forms provided by the board office. At the discretion of the board, exemption during part-time or short-term enrollment in a health-related graduate program may be prorated for the actual period of such enrollment.

ITEM 3. Amend subrule 2.12(3) as follows:

2.12(3) *Continuing education ~~program attendance certificate~~ activity statement of credit.*

a. An ~~approved~~ accredited provider will be required to make available to an individual pharmacist a ~~certificate~~ statement of credit that indicates successful completion of and participation in a continuing education ~~program~~ activity. The certificate statement of credit will carry the following information:

- (1) Pharmacist's full name.
 - ~~(2) Pharmacist's license number.~~
 - ~~(3) (2)~~ Number of contact hours or CEUs awarded for ~~program attended~~ activity completion.
 - ~~(4) (3)~~ Date and place of continuing education program of live activity or date of completion of home study activity.
 - ~~(5) (4)~~ Name of ~~program~~ accredited provider.
 - ~~(6) An indicator of the type or category of continuing education program completed.~~
 - ~~(5)~~ Activity title and universal activity number.
- b.* A pharmacist must retain ~~certificates~~ statements of credit in the pharmacist's personal files for four years.

ITEM 4. Amend subrule 2.12(4) as follows:

2.12(4) *Continuing education ~~program~~ activity topics.* Each pharmacist is required to obtain a minimum of 50 percent of the pharmacist's required 3.0 CEUs in ACPE-~~approved~~ accredited courses dealing with drug therapy. Programs Activities qualifying for the drug therapy ~~course~~ requirement will include the ACPE topic designator "01" or "02" in the last two digits of the ~~program~~ universal activity number.

ITEM 5. Amend subrule 2.12(7) as follows:

2.12(7) *Reporting continuing education credits.*

a. A pharmacist shall submit on or with the renewal application form documentation that the continuing education requirements have been met. Documentation shall be in a format that includes the following:

- (1) The total number of credits accumulated for the renewal period;
- (2) The individual ~~programs attended~~ activities completed, including activity title and universal activity number;
- (3) The dates of ~~participation~~ completion;
- (4) The credits awarded for each ~~course~~ activity;
- (5) The name of the provider of each ~~course~~ activity; and
- (6) Identification of the ~~programs~~ activities completed to comply with the drug therapy ~~course~~ requirements in subrule 2.12(4).

b. The board may require a pharmacist to submit the ~~program attendance certificates~~ activity statements of credit that document successful completion of the ~~programs~~ activities included with or on the renewal application.

c. No change.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: For replacement pages for IAC, see IAC Supplement 4/7/10.